

# MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

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MEMO TO: House Health Policy Committee

FROM: Alan Mindlin, MD, President

RE: House Bills 5245, 5247, 5248, and 5255

On behalf of the more than 14,000 physicians of the Michigan State Medical Society, I am writing in opposition to House Bills 5245, 5247, 5248, and 5255. This legislation is unnecessary and it is unclear what purpose such changes to the respective statutes would accomplish.

Under current law, physicians work in concert with nurse practitioners and other allied health professionals to provide care to patients. The current arrangement has worked well and patients can be assured that they are receiving the expertise of the nurse practitioner as well as a physician. Performing a physical for a patient for purposes of operating a vehicle, being medically cleared for adoption proceedings, or a court hearing are all important tasks that have been required to be performed by a physician under the current statutes. The Michigan State Medical Society is not aware of any delays to persons requiring these physical examinations.

Additionally, House Bill 5255 seeks to change the long held requirement that a death certificate be signed by a physician. Death certificates require certain information related to the cause of death that are essentially medical diagnoses, and therefore fall outside of the scope of practice of the non-physician. And while there may be cases where the cause of death appears to be straight forward, it often requires the full education and training of the physician to rule out as well as arrive at the ultimate cause of death.

Certified Nurse Practitioners are a crucial part of the health care delivery system in Michigan. However, since it is unclear that there is a need for House Bill 5245, 5247, and 5248, and that MSMS has significant concerns about the potential scope of practice increase House Bill 5255 represents, our organization opposes these bills as currently written.

